

LEEDS TOWN-HALL COMPETITION.—What architects are thought of, and the meanness they are treated with, the proposition of the municipality of Leeds is a rich example. Wanting "designs for a Town-hall and judicial buildings, with plans, sections, elevations, explanatory and working drawings, accompanied by a general and minute specification of the manner of executing the works, sufficient for contracting for the same, and an estimate of the cost in detail," limiting that, however, to 35,000*l.* with a condition that the accepted plans are to become their property, and not binding themselves to employ the author;—what do they offer for this? 200*l.* Now, either they must have a very low estimate of the profession, to expect that any one would be idiotic enough to give for 200*l.* that which he would be fairly and honourably entitled to carry into effect upon the usual commission, which would amount to 1,750*l.*; or the conditions have been so arranged to favour some individual. If these terms are responded to, we may expect that next a further condition will be made, viz., that the superintendence of the works shall be included in the paltry dole. Something ought to be done to come to a better understanding on the subject of competitions.—AN ARCHITECT.

STREET CROSSING.—A writer in *THE BUILDER* has cleverly suggested that bridges might be erected in the crowded thoroughfares of London for the convenience of foot-passengers, who lose so much valuable time in crossing. As the stairs would occupy a considerable space, and occasion much fatigue, I beg to propose an amendment. Might not the ascending pedestrians be raised up by the descending? The bridge would then resemble the letter H, and occupy but little room. Three or four at a time, stepping into an iron framework, would be gently elevated, walk across, and perform the same friendly office for others rising on the opposite side. Surely no obstacles can arise which might not be surmounted by ingenuity. If a temporary bridge were erected in one of the parks the experiment might be tried at little cost, and, at any rate, some amusement would be afforded.—*Notes and Queries.*

LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS FOR CHURCHES.—True and familiar proverbs still require to be frequently repeated. One of the best known is also one of the most neglected, viz. "Prevention is better than cure." Applying this maxim to lightning conductors for church steeples or towers, allow me to make a suggestion which, if carried out, would occasion but a trifling cost whilst churches are being built, and save a great future expense, which must sooner or later be incurred where the proper precaution is neglected. As many of the new churches are built by the help of grants from "The Incorporated Society for Building Churches," it would be very easy for the society to stipulate that every church aided by their funds should have a lightning-conductor, and this rule would, no doubt, be followed by the local societies and committees throughout the land. It may also be added that architects themselves should always impress upon their employers the necessity of lightning conductors being attached to the churches under their supervision as a matter of primary consideration.—G. R. F.

A PERPETUAL (?) LIGHT.—A curious circumstance is stated in the *Messenger de Langres*. On 7th ult. some workmen were busy digging the foundations of a new building, when they discovered a vault at a depth of 15 feet, in the Gallo-Roman soil, in a perfect state of preservation, which they thought sufficiently strong to support the new fabric. The contractor bid them break it up, which they did, not without much difficulty, the cement having acquired the hardness of stone. Scarcely had an opening been made, when one of the workmen exclaimed that he saw a light at the bottom of a cavern thus discovered. This flame, at first taken for a Jack-o'-Lantern, proved to be the light of a bronze lamp suspended from the roof by rings of the same metal. It was a sepulchral lamp of remarkable workmanship, and believed to have burnt here for many ages. These workmen, continues the *Messenger*, "had,

therefore, discovered a perpetual lamp, the theme of so many disputes among the learned. In 1540 a similar discovery was made in the vicinity of Viterbo; but since then we are not aware that others have been discovered. The most remarkable circumstance in the discovery just made at Langres is, that the lamp was entirely filled with alimentary matter to keep up the flame: in other words, the lighting principle had not diminished in the slightest degree, although the combustion had lasted many ages." If there be any truth in this narration, it is much more probable that the lamp was prepared with matter spontaneously combustible on the accession of air, and that, in fact, in place of burning for ages, it only began to burn when the cavern was opened.

TRANSMIGRATIONS OF THE PROTEUS IRON.—The transmission of iron, in a chemical form, through chalybeate springs, is of itself curious; but how much more so its passage and subsequent accumulation, as in bog iron, and the iron of the coal measures, through the agency of vegetation! How strange, if the steel axe of the woodman would have once formed part of an ancient forest!—if, after first existing as a solid mass in a primary rock, it should next have come to be diffused as a red pigment in a transition conglomerate—then as a brown oxide in a chalybeate spring—then as a yellowish ochre in a secondary sandstone—then as a component part in the stems and twigs of a thick forest of arborescent plants—then again as an iron carbonate, slowly accumulating at the bottom of a morass of the coal measures—then, as a layer of indurated bands and nodules of brown ore, underlying a seam of coal—and then, finally, that it should have been dug out, and smelted, and fashioned, and employed for the purpose of handicraft, and yet occupy, even at this stage, merely a middle place between the transmigrations which have passed, and the changes which are yet to come!—*Miller's Old Red Sandstone.*

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—The second attempt to connect England and Ireland by a submarine telegraph has also failed. The first line from Holyhead to Howth was a single wire, which we presume was not properly insulated, as we cannot find that any communication ever traversed it, and the wire has been taken up. The second line, by way of Portpatrick and Donaghadee, we understand, was covered with rope yarn, and when seven miles had been laid the strength proved insufficient to resist the currents and tides of that narrow channel, and the works have been suspended. These rivals appear to have been running a neck and neck race to transmit the first message from shore to shore, and have simply verified the proverb: "more haste, less speed."—We hope a better fate awaits the cable which the original company (the "Irish Submarine Telegraph") have been preparing for some months past. This company, which is incorporated by royal charter, proposes to lay a cable consisting of four separately insulated wires, covered by an anhydrous coating, and encased with plaited iron wire, preserved from oxidation. It is to run from Holyhead to Howth as speedily, it is said, as is consistent with security.

POPULAR AND BLACKWALL PUBLIC BATHS.—These baths, which have recently been erected on the south side of the East-India Dock-road, were opened on Saturday last. The edifice stands on a plot of ground 120 feet square, and is of Italian character, with a tower enclosing the shaft of the boiler-house. There are two large tepid baths. The private baths of first-class comprise twelve for men and six for women; and there are twenty-four of second class for men and six for women; besides vapour and shower-baths. The mechanical apparatus enables the bather to provide himself with hot or cold water at will. The washing and drying departments consist of forty-eight separate washing-tubs and drying-horses, together with ironing-rooms, &c. The total cost of land, erections, and fittings, amount to about 11,500*l.* which have been raised on security of the poor-rates; to be repaid within twenty years.

IGNITION BY THE SUN'S RAYS.—Another instance of spontaneous ignition has occurred since our last notice. At Old Newton, in Suffolk, a quantity of light litter lying in contact with a piece of black flint stone, took fire, and would have destroyed some adjoining buildings had not the fire been immediately put out.

TENDERS

For erecting two houses at Welham-green, and alterations to others. Messrs. Willshire and Parra, architects.
Charles Pollard £1,045.
Wm. Elliott 1,446.
J. B. Faithful 1,610.
H. Wire 1,280.
Higgs and Case 1,397.
R. Dean 1,183.
T. Humphreys 1,180.
John Hurst 1,085.

For a public-house and five houses, to be built for Mr. Herrington, at Notting-hill. Mr. Mumford, architect.
Bardag £3,470.
Wright 3,350.
Higgs 3,123.
Corby 3,173.
Trigg 2,895.

For finishing two villas at Brixton-rise, for Mr. William Morris. Mr. Haslam, architect.
Hardiman £2,297.
Baker 2,213.
Gerry 2,133.
Eaton 2,088.

For new wing to the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth. Mr. Darnley, architect.
Wilson £1,130.
Steer and Conway 984.
Stanton 933.
Powell 918.
John Marshall 875.
Wm. Jeffery 869.
C. Dwyer 830.
Thos. Marshall 793.
Hancock 780.
Roberts and Co. (accepted) 798.

For building addition, &c. to Beech-house, Tottenham, for the Rev. J. Hall. Mr. R. N. Clifton, architect.
Pritchard and Sons (Warwick-lane) £291.
Morris (Hackney) 689.
Perry (ditto) 430.

For drawings of an estate at Turham-green, for Mr. D. Hughes, consisting of 2,400 feet of whole brick sewer, 3,100 feet of 12-inch pipe drains, and other works.

	Brick Sewer.	Pipe Drains.	Total.
B. Green	£3,550 0 0	2,800 0 0	£6,350 0 0
Geo. Morris	1,551 0 0	717 0 0	2,268 0 0
Wm. Dethick	1,135 0 0	290 0 0	1,425 0 0
Jonas Greigous	1,080 0 0	350 0 0	1,430 0 0
Wm. Hill	.....	.....	1,350 0 0
W. Thompson	1,050 14 0	294 3 6	1,344 18 0
J. H. Brown	1,000 0 0	290 0 0	1,290 0 0
J. & S. Williams	.....	.....	1,250 0 0
Barnes & Turner	.....	.....	1,230 0 0
Smith & Cole	.....	.....	1,200 0 0
J. Mayors	(pipes only)	345 6 0	.....
G. Kamester	(ditto)	318 8 8	.....

* Accepted.

For Convalescent Asylum, Walton-upon-Thames. Mr. Joseph Clarke, of Stratford-place, architect. Quotations taken out by Mr. Yekham.
Pipers £10,670.
Lawrence and Sons 10,450.
Howard and Nixon 10,400.
Myers 9,984.
T. Amos 9,946.
Rigby 9,865.
Locke and Nesham 9,300.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"H. G. O." "W. H." "Q. R. P." "J. J." "G. M. H." "C. D. J." "J. H. H." "T. B. D." "H. W. J." "Q. R. D." "J. E." "M. B." "A. B. B." "F. W. E." (not our province). "G. G. B." "G. A." "C. P. D." "J. P." "C. H." "W. P." "Mr. B." "Stylabene."

"Books and Addresses."—We have not time to post out books or find addresses.

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